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# CHALLENGE

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FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM • LUCHE POR COMUNISMO • PLP

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## March on Washington, Oct. 2:

# Smash Racist Unemployment with Communist Revolution




**PARIS, September 7 —** *Today, 2.5 million workers demonstrated and marched in 220 cities across France. Hundreds of thousands went on strike for one day to protest the Sarkozy government's austerity plan to gut the workers' pensions. Polls showed 70% of the population backed the protests. While workers' anger is massive, the union misleaders try to rein it in by limiting action to one-day strikes.*

The economic "recovery" from the greatest crisis since the Great Depression has left over 30 million U.S. workers and youth unemployed and underemployed and wages plummeting. "Recovery" means the bosses' profits are rising, as there there are fewer workers who must work harder to increase the bosses' productivity.

Billions have been handed over to the bankers and auto bosses while millions of families continue to lose their homes. And that's as "good" as it's going to get.

Now the bosses are squealing that the recovery is weakening and yet another major economic crisis looms. At best, they say, mass racist unemployment, as high as 50% among black males and higher among black youth, will continue for years. While Congress haggles over extending unemployment benefits, increased funding for the $3 trillion oil wars in Iraq and Afghanistan sails through uncontested.

The racist rulers need a working class that is ready to sacrifice and fight for U.S. imperialism. They're losing in Iraq and Afghanistan and have Yemen, Pakistan and Iran waiting in the wings. So far, they've had some success in getting workers to sacrifice. They've yet to win workers ideologically to fight for them.

Nowhere are these sacrifices more evident than in the U.S. auto industry. This month Obama visited a Michigan GM plant and a Chicago Ford plant. This is after Ford announced $4 billion in second quarter profits and GM announced profits for two consecutive quarters for the first time in years.

And why not? Obama and the UAW leadership teamed up to close dozens of plants, cut wages by as much as $30,000/year, and destroy more than 200,000 jobs. And that's just since the meltdown of 2008-2009. Billions of dollars and maybe a million jobs were sacrificed long before that. The starting pay for a GM, Ford or Chrysler worker has been cut by more than half, and they'll have no pension if and when they retire.

These massive sacrifices took place with a minimum of resistance, highlighted by the three-month strike at American Axel in 2007 and Ford workers rejecting a final round of concessions in 2008. The UAW, now led by religious, "social activist" president Bob King, has reached a new low by claiming the bosses' profits as a "victory" for the workers. "We saved the auto industry, and U.S. jobs." It's

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## 'Traitor Go Home!'

# GM Workers Kick Out UAW Hacks

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN, August 31 —** "Get Out! This is our hall!" "Traitor!" "Go Home!" That's how hundreds of GM workers greeted UAW International reps on August 15. The standing-room only crowd of hundreds of stamping plant workers, members of UAW Local 23, had no intentions of cutting their wages in half to save their jobs. As the International reps headed for the doors, the workers jumped to their feet and started chanting, "Take [UAW Local President] Ray [Kennedy] With You, Take Ray With You!"

As part of the GM bailout restructuring by Obama, this plant is to be closed. JD Norman Industries made an offer to buy the plant, but made 50% pay cuts a condition of the deal. Last May, the workers voted 384-22 against reopening their contract. Despite this, Kennedy and the UAW International continued to negotiate with GM and JD Norman, reaching a deal they planned on ratifying at the August meeting. This is what new UAW President Bob King calls the 21st Century UAW, where the bosses and the union partner up to screw the workers.

They gave workers one day's notice and provided them with "highlights" of the proposed contract before trying to bum-rush them into cutting their wages in half. Instead, the workers told newly-annointed UAW Region 3 Director Mo Davidson to take a 50 percent pay cut. One worker said, "They're not representing us, they're representing their 17 percent stake in GM," referring to the UAW's stake in GM as a result of the federal restructuring and bailout.

The majority of workers here have high seniority and many are GM "migrants," having moved from plant to plant as factories shut down. They are not afraid of one more closing. They have learned the hard way, from years of exposure to GM's and the UAW's "whipsawing" of one GM local against another, that concessions don't save jobs.

By casting their fortunes with those of the auto bosses, the UAW has gone from 1.5 million members to under 350,000. 150,000 of those are in casinos, legal aid offices, college campuses, state and city workers and more. The domestic auto industry is over 50% non-union and the restructuring of the past few years has cost yet another 200,000 jobs and seen wages cut in half. The devastating racist nature of these attacks is evident in the streets of Detroit, Flint, St. Louis, Lansing and a host of other GM towns.

The current crisis of 30 million unemployed and underemployed will be with us for years. The UAW hopes to increase its numbers by partnering with the bosses and enforcing a low-wage economy. UAW President King hides behind the banner of "social justice," but will put thousands in the streets to march for the same Democratic Party politicians who have failed workers so miserably while expanding the endless "oil war on terror." GM workers are exposing the real nature of the UAW leadership. Building a mass PLP in basic industry will ultimately crush these maggots and lead the working class to power. ✪



# Mosque, Tea Party Mania Shows:
# Racist Liberal War-makers: Evil, Yes; Lesser No!

Who poses the graver danger to the working class?

Openly racist, right-wing politicians who oppose the building of a mosque near Ground Zero? Or liberal U.S. imperialists who fear that an anti-Islamic image may hinder their drive for Mid-East oil profits as they slaughter millions?

Is it Glenn Beck and Sarah Palin, who led a 300,000-strong, lily-white Tea Party/religious revival on the Washington Mall to boost Republicans in the November elections? Or Obama-led Democrats seeking to rally millions more for looming wars with Iran, China, and Russia?

Is it conservative billionaires, like Charles and David Koch and Rupert Murdoch, bankrolling the Tea Party bigots? Or the far more powerful liberal Rockefeller faction, whose "charitable" foundations and think-tanks in fact further U.S. imperialism's mass murders behind racist characterizations of Arab, South Asian and Muslim workers in the media and in soldier training?

Both camps are sworn enemies of our class. Racist Tea Partiers target immigrants and unions but the Obama administration has increased fascist oppression of immigrant workers through using National Guard troops at the border and raiding factories, thereby terrorizing and deporting far more immigrant workers than the former could hope to (see CHALLENGE, 7/21/10).

While all these bosses are our class's enemies, the Rockefeller-led liberal imperialists, with their empire challenged, control the U.S. war machine which can deal death and suffering to billions of workers worldwide. These liberal forces are the main danger to our class because they have a broader base in the working class through their mass organizations and therefore can mis-lead millions into supporting their policies and achieve ruling-class aims, much more effectively than the Tea Partiers.

### Bosses' Split Widens As U.S. Economic, Military Woes Deepen

The mosque flap reflects a crisis-driven, growing division between two capitalist factions, each trying to win popular support. Liberal politicians front for the owners of Exxon Mobil, JP Morgan, and the like, who need to re-enforce and expand their shrinking global spheres of influence through ever wider military invasions and occupations. War means "shared sacrifice" not only from the working class but also from companies in the form of higher taxes and tighter, centralized regulation.

War-making also requires workers' obedience to the central government, including willing military enlistment, not just relatively meaningless flag-waving. To garner a voter base, however, conservative U.S. capitalists preach a "don't-tread-on-me" anti-government creed to angry white workers victimized by economic collapse. The right-wingers say the U.S. can solve its military problems with "off-the-shelf," low-tax "solutions," with little sacrifice from bosses or workers.

***The Rockefeller-led liberal imperialists, with their empire challenged, control the U.S. war machine which can deal death and suffering to billions of workers worldwide. These liberal forces are the main danger to our class.***

Right-leaning bosses obstruct the imperialists' war and regulation agenda for a variety of reasons. Some, like media baron Murdoch, are first-generation billionaires, still in the acquisition stage, battling regulation and taxes as obstacles to establishing a dynasty. Murdoch had to fight the Federal Communications Commission and liberal Ted Kennedy tooth and nail to buy up broadcast outlets.

The Kochs' huge family-owned energy-textile-forest products business — which bankrolls the Tea Party — gains nothing from the main rulers' developing expansion of their current Iraqi and Afghan campaigns. Koch Industries' Mid-East footprint is confined to Turkey. Koch does not operate in Exxon Mobil's, Chevron's, (and British allies Shell's and BP's) oily treasure troves in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait or the Emirates.

In addition, the NY Times, the liberals' leading mouthpiece (8/28/10) denounced billionaire hedge-funder Paul Singer as a top Republican contributor bent on reversing Obama & Co.'s recent attempts to forcefully regulate Wall Street. Hedge funds — essentially high-stakes gambling — make tons of money for investors but create none of the wartime manufacturing capacity and infrastructure the imperialist wing sorely needs and wants.

### Bosses' Dogfight Over Iran War Plans Behind Mosque, Electoral Battles

At the heart of the mosque debate lies the main U.S. rulers' prospects for successfully occupying Islamic oil-rich Iraq and Afghanistan — key transport route for Central Asian oil and gas — and the direction of their next major conflict, with Iran's nuclear-arming ruling ayatollahs. Anti-mosque, anti-tax conservative leaders want an "on-the-cheap" strike by Israel, costing no more than the U.S.'s already yearly $3 billion in military aid to that nation's rulers:

"Almost two dozen Tea Party-affiliated lawmakers co-sponsored a new resolution late last week that expresses their support for Israel 'to use all means necessary to confront and eliminate nuclear threats posed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the use of military force.'" (Foreign Policy, 7/26/10)

### War-Making Liberals Need Boots on the Ground, Not Just Air and Sea Raids

Contrary to the right-wingers' approach on Iran, Richard Haass, head of the arch-imperialist, Rockefeller-led Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) think-tank, worries about mosque protests sparking popular uprisings in U.S. imperialism's most crucial region, hampering action against Iran: "Strident statements by Americans that appear to be anti-Muslim [have] the potential to take a toll on prospects for U.S. policies throughout the greater Middle East, including U.S. efforts designed to...stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan, and isolate Iran." (CFR website, 8/23/10)

Meanwhile, imperialist guru Gary Hart — co-author of the Clinton-era Hart-Rudman reports which predicted 9/11 and prescribed police-state militarization — warns against the Tea Partiers' "bomb-Iran-now" proposal. He favors rebuilding overstretched U.S. land forces for a more massive invasion and occupation of the oil and gas giant. Give it time, says Hart:

"Such an attack would place great stress on our military. We cannot continue the Afghan war, prop up the neighboring Iraqi government, and create a third battlefield in the Middle East. It is folly to assume that a U.S.-Iran war can be carried out by the Navy and Air Force alone.... We have at least a year, and probably more, to weigh Iran's nuclear capabilities and intentions, and to rally regional and global opposition to them." (Hart's "Matters of Principle" web log, 8/23/10)

But Hart may very well be wrong about time

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## OUR FIGHT

**✯Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.**

**✯Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.**

**✯Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.**

**✯While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.**

**✯Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. Everyone will share in society's benefits and burdens.**

**✯Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.**

**✯Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.**

**✯Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.**

**✯Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.**

**✯Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!**

**PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY**
**P.O. Box 808 Brooklyn NY 11202**
**• www.plp.org**
**• email: desafio.challenge@gmail.com**
**• blog: challengenewspaper.wordpress.com**

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### *Why Articles Are Not Signed*

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual. While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

# Stella D'Oro Workers Still Fighting Back, Now vs. Union Pension Sellout

**BRONX, NY, September 1 —** If you walked into this little restaurant, you wouldn't notice him sitting there nursing a coffee. And you wouldn't notice the steady stream of men and women that come in when they can, to either pick up or drop off the latest copies of CHALLENGES. They are former Stella D'Oro workers, who struck the company for 11 months only to lose their jobs when the company was sold and moved.

They are bruised, but not beaten, still fighting back. Now they are fighting the Bakery, Confectionary and Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM) International union leaders, who have made it much harder for unemployed members to reach the "Golden 80" and qualify for a full pension.

"Golden 80" refers to a combination of age and years of service. So if you are 60 years old with 20 years of service, you qualify for a full pension. As of July 30, workers like the Stella D'Oro workers, who reach "Golden 80" while unemployed due to plant closings, will take a 40% cut in benefits, including those who only needed a month or two to qualify. If they hit "80" with less than 15 years of service, they will take a 60% cut. This is especially vicious as it targets the oldest workers who are the least likely to work again given the current economic crisis and mass racist unemployment.

One woman said, "I worked 27 years for this company and contributed to my pension. I need three months for Golden 80 and they want to give me 40% less!" The wife of a worker who was one month short of his "Golden 80" reported that this has made him physically ill, unable to sleep and suffering from high blood pressure. Another worker said, "We fought for a year and a half. We stood up for this union and they give away our pension!"

The union claims that the cuts were needed because the pension fund is in danger of going broke. But at the same time they were cutting Stella workers, they were cutting $300 supplemental checks to current Golden 80 retirees. Also, Stella D'Oro had to pay a $12 million penalty to the pension fund in order to withdraw from it. Yet, none of that money is being used to help the victims of the plant closing.

By mid-August the Stella workers were fighting back. They found a lawyer who has taken their case, but they will really need to rekindle the mass actions and militancy of their strike in the fight to protect their pensions. If they win, so will every BCTGM member.

As this fight unfolds, we are trying to organize Stella workers to join a contingent of unemployed workers in the October 2 march on Washington, D.C. (see page 1). Out of this struggle we will be in a better position to organize the unemployed, fight racist unemployment, and build the revolutionary communist PLP. ✪

# March on Washington, October 2

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no accident that King, the former UAW-VP at Ford, which made the greatest profits, is now the UAW president!

### Open Union-Corporate Alliance Signals Impending Fascism & War

While having a passive working class helps the rulers cut wages and steal jobs, it's a double-edged sword. They need a politically-motivated working class to mobilize for a future of poverty and expanding war. In order to win them, they have to put workers in the streets to give vent to their frustrations. That's a very risky proposition for the racist rulers and their union front men.

So it is with that in mind that the NAACP, UAW, Teamsters, SEIU, TWU, ATU and hundreds of unions and "progressive" community and religious organizations are planning the "One Nation" march on Washington, D.C. on October 2. In the short-term, it's a counter-attack on the Tea Party and a mass "Get-Out-The-Vote" effort (for Democrats) in the mid-term Congressional elections just a month later. "One Nation" is a reference to Obama's campaign pledge of "no blue states, no red states."

This is all part of the rulers' and Obama's attempt to lump workers and bosses under one nationalist flag. They want to win workers away from viewing themselves as a working class exploited by the bosses' class.

But beyond the elections is the more sinister effort to begin to win the working class in earnest to a future of war and fascism. U.S. imperialism needs more than our wages and health benefits. They need our commitment and our very lives. After 9/11, Bush told everyone to "go shopping." That was a serious error for which the rulers never forgave him. Workers and youth can't be won to war and fascism in the mall. They have to be in the streets.

PLP accepts this challenge. As the rulers try to put a million workers in Washington, D.C., we will be there fighting for the political leadership of the working class, fighting to have anti-racism, internationalism and communist revolution make an impact on the mass movement. This can't be done with a few lone wolves handing out leaflets with the "right idea."

This can only be accomplished by mobilizing our base in the mass movement to weigh in in a big way. On our jobs and in our unions we will organize not just against the racist Tea Party, but to oppose Obama and our union "leaders" as well. It wasn't the Tea Party that cut 200,000 auto jobs and slashed our wages in half!

In the schools and campuses, we can organize busloads of youth to oppose the plans the rulers have for us to kill and die for U.S. imperialism. And we should organize contingents of unemployed workers to march, whether they are recently laid-off transit workers, former Stella D'Oro strikers or those who have exhausted their unemployment benefits.

A racist system that can't provide jobs should be destroyed. Communist revolution will smash racist unemployment. We can win the masses to break away from their misleaders and fight for communism. In the build-up to October 2, the ball is very much in our court. ✪



# Multi-Racial Strikers Battle Union-busting Nursing Home Bosses

**HARTFORD, CT, August 31 —** "All the owners care about is money. They don't care about the patients and they don't care about the workers!" So declared a nursing home worker on strike at the Spectrum-owned Park Place Health Center, one of four Spectrum-owned nursing homes in the state that have been struck for four months.

When Spectrum purchased the home following a fire a few years ago, the workers, members of SEIU District 1199, had a union contract. Spectrum has tried mightily to destroy the contract, and, if possible, to bust the union.

The bosses want to tie wages to Medicaid reimbursement, so if the latter increases, wages will increase a little, but if reimbursement declines, so will wages. Workers won't be able to count on the wages they'll receive. Furthermore, the owners' plan will cut holidays.

"We want a fair contract. If we give back, it will just get worse and worse. This with the economy so bad and everything going up in price," said one striker. "Some of the work is very hard, lifting patients, moving them from one place to another. If we get hurt, we get put on light duty and our pay is cut $4 to $5 an hour. If someone gets hurt, they won't tell the boss because their pay will be cut, so people are working hurt, which is not safe for the workers or the patients."

"To me," said another striker, "it's as much about the patients as it is about us. One patient came down to the picket line — what were the scabs doing that he got out? — to get shaved by his regular CNA (certified nursing assistant). She shaved him." In another incident, a patient came down to the line short of breath. "We called 911 to get help for him while the scabs watched from the building," said the striker. "We and the patients are like family."

Scabs are crossing the line. One group comprises those who were working before the strike and did not honor the picket line. "The strike would be over if they had come out," was one comment.

The others are young people fresh out of school who are told by the bosses that they will have permanent jobs if they cross the line. These people are generally dumped after three months before they qualify for medical insurance. As one woman said, "I feel sorry for these young people who were conned into coming here to work and then kicked out. On the other hand, they crossed our line, and it's our job and our life, so too bad!"

The strike is the sharpest example of class struggle in Connecticut at the moment, so much so that before the Democratic gubernatorial primary, candidate Dan Malloy walked the picket line to "prove" he's pro-union. PLP can play a role in this strike in exposing unions' and politicians' collaboration with the bosses, and showing workers that only a revolutionary fight can win workers' power.

The workers, Latino, black and white, women and men, are united and optimistic. "We're going to win. We're not going to give up," vowed one woman. PL'ers have been organizing strike support and introducing communist ideas to the strikers. ✪

# Communists, Anti-Racists Confront Racist ‘Tea Party’



**WASHINGTON, D.C., August 28 —** PLP boldly confronted tens of thousands of lily-white Tea Partiers streaming into a rally led by Glenn Beck and Sarah Palin. We challenged the racists, haranguing them on a loud bullhorn for two hours and individually in their faces as they walked by. Speakers exposed the Tea Party as tools of big business, especially Koch Enterprises, a multi-billion dollar energy company that organized and funds the Tea Party with millions of dollars. (Jane Mayer, "Covert Operations: The billionaire brothers who are waging a war against Obama," New Yorker, 8/30).

PL'ers called for multi-racial unity to fight against racism and for jobs, affordable housing, and against the wars for oil. Some speakers called for the unity of all workers to fight for communism, a society run by the working class without profiting from anyone's work, and condemned the racially-divisive message of the Tea Party.

We distributed over 400 CHALLENGES and 700 leaflets (including 300 the night before at an anti-racist gathering) explaining the fascist nature of the Tea Party. Our numbers grew when other anti-racists looking for a protest showed up. Our friends were furious at Glenn Beck's attempt at hijacking the symbols of anti-racism by holding his rally at the Lincoln Memorial.

This location is associated with the end of slavery and was the site of Marian Anderson's famous concert in response to the racist banning of her performance in Constitution Hall in the 1930s. The rally was called on the anniversary of the anti-racist March on Washington in 1963. Beck even got Martin Luther King's niece (a right-winger who is estranged from her family) to speak favorably at the rally.

The Tea Party crowd was overwhelmingly white, middle class, and older. Most vigorously denied they were racist, while some were openly racist. Most wanted to "take back the country" and "return it to its roots," a thinly-veiled call to return to segregation and even slavery. Almost all of them viewed undocumented workers as a major cause of the problems in society.

Other Tea Partiers were vague as to what the rally was about. Several said that they had voted for Obama, but were furious that he had sold out to the Wall Street banks during the crisis, and so had switched to the Tea Party. Capitalism in crisis drives people to take sharper positions, either to the left or the right. We have to be there to win increasingly angry workers to revolutionary politics, not fascism! We cannot abandon any workers to the demagoguery of fascism.

We struggled successfully with our coworkers, friends and neighbors and comrades from out of town to join us and not be intimidated by this emerging fascist movement. Our greatest victory was that the workers we brought with us got to see the danger of the beginning of a mass fascist movement up close and personal, which gave a sense of urgency for building PLP and the revolutionary movement.

### Greater Dangers

The Tea Party and its allied Freedom Works support policies to enrich big business, especially aggressive southwest capitalists challenging the eastern Wall Street capitalists within the ruling class. The Tea Party and Freedom Works want to privatize social security, eliminate welfare, charge for currently free Internet services, eliminate environmental protections to control global warming, and restrict unionization. The longer-view liberal capitalists generally oppose these policies as unnecessarily disruptive, but they are moving in the same direction.

The Tea Party may have mobilized fascist foot soldiers, but the main danger remains with the liberal bosses currently led by Obama. They are the leaders of imperialist wars, massive cutbacks in services, and ongoing fascist repressive measures that in some ways have exceeded those of the Bush administration (for example creating a list of "terrorist" enemies and giving the green light to assassinate them anywhere in the world, not just on the battlefield).

These forces have mobilized labor unions and the NAACP for a mass march on October 2 to shore up the political power of their faction of the ruling class. We must be there to expose their efforts to mislead angry workers into the bosses' election charade. What is called for is sharper class struggle in the streets and in the workplaces.

The Tea Party is similar to the movements that grew in Germany and Italy in the 1930s. We have started a fight-back movement, but we have to grow larger quickly to derail the fascist Tea Party through more vigorous struggle, similar to our campaigns against the Klan and Nazis.

With the economy going deeper into recession, more workers are looking for answers, and the Tea Party offers other workers as scapegoats. PLP can show workers that capitalism is the cause and that revolution for communism is the solution. Let's bring that same message to the bosses' demonstration on October 2. ✪

## Mosque Frenzy Masks Rulers' War Aims:

# PL'ers Lead Intern'l Group vs. Racists at Ground Zero

**NEW YORK CITY —** "The racists are freely demonstrating in front of the mosque right now! And we're the ones fenced in three blocks away by the NYPD," a PL'er said to 150 demonstrators. They were assembled to counter-protest 500 racists opposed to the so-called "Ground Zero Mosque," a mosque that an Islamic association is hoping to expand into a community center.

The mosque has made headlines in the bosses' press worldwide. Liberals like Obama have questioned the "wisdom" of its location two blocks from the site of the former World Trade Center, and right-wingers have declared it a haven for "terrorism."

Our PLP club and several friends from Latin America, South Asia, the Middle East, and West Africa participated in the counter-demonstration and raised our internationalist, anti-imperialist and anti-racist politics. We distributed CHALLENGE and encouraged the crowd to picket and confront the racists, in spite of the fears of confrontation by the socialist group that officially organized the event.

One PL'er climbed the ladder to speak, and pointed out that the racist demonstration occurring in front of the mosque is part of a U.S. ruling-class-sponsored intensification of racism against Muslims, particularly Arabs, Persians, and South Asians. Their goal is to build momentum for even larger wars in the Middle East/ South Asia.

The PL'er concluded with the need to confront the racists by marching directly to them to picket, so as not to repeat the mistake of ignoring racism the German working class made during the rise of fascism. A leader in the socialist group warned the crowd not to break away from the steel fences, instead inviting everyone to a meeting the following week to "discuss" the day's events. In the end about two or three dozen went to the mosque, where we were forced to picket the racists from across the street, because of the heavy NYPD presence.

The U.S. bosses may be divided amongst themselves for the moment, but in the long term they will need Nazi-like soldiers who won't hesitate to butcher more of our Middle Eastern working-class brothers and sisters for control of oil. Equating Islam with Bin Laden's terrorism is only a first attempt to build the racism they need to win workers here to become those butchers.

We can count on the bosses not missing an opportunity to try and mobilize workers into the streets around their imperialist agenda. We can't miss our own opportunities. We must use CHALLENGE to build the mass international working-class movement that will stop these racist bosses in their tracks. ✪

# Racist Liberal Warmakers

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being on the side of U.S. imperialists. China's rapid rise and thirst for oil, and Russia's determined re-emergence, both as U.S. rivals, fuel their ally Iran's hostile ambitions. And Israel's bosses, emboldened by their unpunished massacres of Palestinians, might not wait for Washington's O.K. to bomb Iran. Nobody knows just what will happen.

Anthony Cordesman, a top analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) — another Rockefeller-funded policy foundry — sure doesn't. He says, "This is a 'game' without clear limits or rules, and where outside players like Israel can suddenly change the board….'stability' can rapidly turn into large-scale violence" (CSIS, 8/13/10)

No matter what results, the inter-imperialist rivalry driving the U.S., Russia, China, Israel, et al, spells death and destruction for the working class worldwide. Siding with the Rockefeller-led liberals will intensify that slaughter.

Effective working-class action against the rulers' wars does not hinge on whether or not to build a mosque near Ground Zero, or on voting for the "better" candidate. For us, the ultimate solution is a communist revolution to crush both the liberal and conservative political misleaders, and the war-making, profit-hungry billionaires they serve. Building PLP while exposing and attacking these anti-worker fakes in workplaces, barracks, schools and neighborhoods will bring us closer to that goal. ✪

# Malaysia: Migrant Workers Unite; Rebel vs. Fascist Oppression

**JOHAR BARU, MALAYSIA, Aug.16 —** Today, more than 5,000 migrant workers tore down a guard tower that monitored the "company-town" housing they were forced to live in, in this industrial city. They rebelled after a worker died because of the bosses' racist healthcare system. The workers are undocumented migrant workers from all over the world — Nepal, Myanmar, Vietnam, Bangladesh and India. They united based on their needs as workers and did not let racism defeat their struggle.

The fighting was sparked after an injured staff member died when employers delayed sending him to the hospital. The 20-year-old Nepalese man had contracted a high fever on Sunday. After he became unable to hide how sick he was, the bosses allegedly refused to send him for treatment until it was too late. He died at 7 am the next day. The workers are calling for reforms: the establishment of a mini-clinic at the electronics compound as well as pay increases. Following the rebellion, the managers, now fearing the violence that the workers used, agreed to meet a workers' representative to discuss problems at the plant in the Tebrau Industrial Area.

Recent reports from NGO Amnesty International have been highly critical of the lack of legal protections and conditions for the migrant workforce in Malaysia, noting: "Migrant workers are critical to Malaysia's economy, but they systematically receive less legal protection than other workers. They are easy prey for unscrupulous recruitment agents, employers and corrupt police…Migrants are forced to work in hazardous situations, often against their will, and toil for 12 hours a day or more. Many are subject to verbal, physical and sexual abuse…

"Most pay recruitment agents substantial sums of money to secure jobs, work permits and training. Once they arrive, they often find that much of what their agents told them about their new jobs is a lie — the pay, type of work, even the existence of those jobs or their legal status in the country… Most workers have taken out loans at exorbitant interest rates and simply cannot afford to return to their home countries. Nearly all employers hold their workers' passports, placing workers at risk of arrest and in practice preventing them from leaving abusive workplaces."

Militant actions like this illustrate the potential that workers have to fight back against the bosses and the ideologies of capitalism such as racism and sexism. Despite the use of force by the workers, the lack of a revolutionary communist party will ensure that the struggle is forced down the dead-end path of reform. The bosses will continue to squeeze as much profit as they can from each worker in order to stay competitive. Even if these workers temporarily "win" these reforms, they will eventually be reversed.

Workers lives will never be improved by the "legal" system. Laws are written and enforced by the ruling class to protect the "rights" of the bosses to exploit workers.

That is the nature of capitalism, the system of profits we live under today. Capitalism has not met and can never meet the needs of the world's working class. Though we must be inspired by such uprisings as happened in Malaysia, we have to recognize that these struggles will be for naught unless PLP is built from them.

This is why we need to organize to fight for communism; a society built upon workers' needs, where the workers lead every aspect of society. Under communism our needs wouldn't be ignored because of bosses' needs for profit. There will be no bosses or profits. ✪

# Yearning for Communism Burns Bright in Mexico

**MEXICO CITY, September 4 —** About 17,000 workers in the Mexican Union of Electricians (SME) continue fighting to win back their jobs. Ten months ago President Calderón ordered the police and army onto their worksites to advance the move towards privatization which would leave over 44,000 workers in the street and 22,000 retired workers in poverty.

"When I was born I was already part of the union; my father was an electrician and I took his place," declared a worker at a Party meeting. "We can't allow them to defeat us."

This exemplifies the spirit that encourages thousands to keep fighting. Another worker responded, "His resistance is admirable, but won't end the exploitation and attacks on workers. For this we need a revolutionary party and a communist revolution." He invited the electrician to get to know the Party and our paper. He said he would.

A young transportation worker thought some struggles like at SME can succeed. In the Atenco region, the farmers were able to prevent the rulers from taking their lands to build an airport. We all refused the ridiculous paltry amount they offered for their lands. A young teacher commented, "The Party must be part of these struggles, to unify the workers' struggle for their jobs, which is part of the fight towards communism."

Young students and workers from those areas also attended the meeting. We all saw the importance of studying CHALLENGE collectively and individually to better our understanding of what happens in the world, of the workers' struggles and the task the Party carries out to win them to our ranks.

This important discussion reflected our debates to help resolve the contradiction between reform and revolution. The Party will lead towards the destruction of capitalism and the creation of a communist society. The unions almost always side with the bosses, while saying they're fighting so that workers can live a little better under capitalism. However, this spreads the illusions that this system can be reformed. But in these organizations there are thousands of workers who can be won to destroy capitalism. Communists must fight alongside them to win them towards revolution, not reform. This is a long process but is the essence of our struggle.

Until now we've made modest advances in building a base for communism. The areas of this work change daily. Workers' conditions here worsen rapidly. Unemployment is increasing. The few jobs that do exist mostly have no benefits or are jobs as street vendors.

Under the guise of the "war against drug-trafficking," the army, police and paramilitary groups saturate entire cities. A small number of billionaires openly control the political parties and government, helping to reveal their fight amongst themselves. Inequality, racism, repression, sexism and exploitation intensify. Conditions are changing rapidly towards fascism.

To make the struggle for communism a priority for workers, we must advance from a modest struggle to a major dedication to liberate the working class from the capitalists' yoke. Our key tasks are massive circulation and hand-to-hand distribution of CHALLENGE and our active presence in the class struggle to build a base for communism. ✪

# France: 100,000 Anti-Racists March vs. Gov't Attack on Roma People

**PARIS, September 4 —** One hundred thousand anti-racists demonstrated in cities across France today condemning the Sarkozy government's racist attacks on Roma people. But the movement's leaders — the associations, trade unions and "left" parties — ignored the essential link between racism and capitalism.

Here in the capital 50,000 marched, led by the Roma families whose camp in Choisy-le-Roi (eight miles south of Paris) was razed on August 12.

Gens du voyage* marched side by side with trade unionists in Bordeaux in a protest of 3,500 behind a banner reading "Stop racism — liberty, equality, brotherhood are in danger." ("Liberty, equality, brotherhood" is the motto of the French Republic.)

The action itself — working-class unity against racism — was excellent. But the slogan suggests that racism is foreign to the bourgeois republic, that it can be ended without destroying the bourgeois state and capitalism itself. It steers the working class into supporting capitalist "law and order," which the Sarkozy government is supposedly violating.

In fact, government racism against Roma people goes back long before Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux's July 28 announcement that 700 Roma would be deported to Romania within a month and 300 "illicit" Roma camps would be closed, 150 within three months.

In 2002, when Sarkozy was Interior Minister under President Jacques Chirac, he said the government would "crack down" on Roma people with a new anti-Roma law. No one in the "moderate right-wing" Chirac government blinked an eye and the law was duly passed.

But why attack the tiny Roma population at all? In 2004, there were only 5,000 Roma in France. Today, there are 15,000; that's 0.024% of the population! Clearly, the French Republic's longstanding anti-Roma racism has nothing to do with the number of Roma, and everything to do with the needs of capitalism.

First, with official unemployment at 9.4% in December 2009 — plus 5% of the workforce working part-time but wanting full-time work (Dares Analyses N° 50, July 2010) — and with the austerity plan hitting the working class hard, the government needs a racist diversion to focus people's anger on a scapegoat group. This is widely understood in France.

Secondly, racism performs two vital jobs for the capitalists: (1) it produces super-profits for the bosses through the super-exploitation of the victims of racism (and low wages paid to one part of the working class acts as a brake on all wages); and (2) racism divides the working class, when organized unity is our key weapon in the fight against capitalism.

Thirdly, the racists' attack on the Roma is a step on the way towards attacking France's estimated 3.3 million people of North African origin and the1.1 million of Sub-Saharan African origin.

Racism is as vital for capitalism as it is deadly for the working class. Consequently, racism can never be ended under capitalism. That can only happen through communist revolution, which abolishes bosses and profits, the source of racism.

** "Gens du voyage" is the French expression for Sinti and "Gypsy" people who are French citizens, as distinct from the Roma, most of whom are Romanian citizens. There are 400,000 "gens du voyage," 15% of whom are nomadic.* ✪




***CGT trade union contingent***

# LETTERS

## PLP Convention Report Stirs Airport Workers

At the airport there was a short, multi-racial meeting after work with airport workers from El Salvador, Mexico and the U.S. (mostly black) who wanted to hear a report on the PLP convention. Many were pleased that Party comrades from Colombia, El Salvador, and Mexico are leading the fight against fascism. On following days we had political discussions with Ethiopian airport workers who were also glad to know PLP revolutionaries are in Ethiopia and Tanzania working to destroy capitalism.

These reports emphasized the Party's commitment to becoming an international, multi-racial, mass party, and our renewed efforts to fight the fascist bosses and racism even harder. It was also stressed at the airport how we industrial workers are a key force in the class struggle, along with our brother and sister workers in auto, mass transit, aerospace, etc. We will be able to destroy capitalism with communist revolution, since the bosses cannot run capitalist society without our labor.

On a personal note, the convention was a life-changing meeting. It was like May Day on steroids! I learned so much in the workshop for industrial workers and from meeting and talking with fellow comrades from around the world.

The convention truly opened up my eyes to the potential for communist revolution and the building of a communist future. I also liked how women comrades gave much inspiring political leadership. It was lots of fun making new friends and, most importantly, to know we all have a role to play as leaders in the Party to build PLP. into a multi-racial, working-class, mass Party for communist revolution to overthrow capitalism and establish communist society globally for billions of workers. From Los Angeles to Oaxaca, Mexico, to Ethiopia, the class struggle goes on!

*Airport Red*

## 'Barbarism or Communism: I Choose Communism'

When I was 15 years old I joined PL. After about 10 years of organizing — some successful and some not — I moved away from PL.

It is difficult to explain why simply, so I won't try. I will only say that my own cynicism and the imperatives of surviving in capitalist society moved me in a different direction.

I am now in middle age and, aside from some minor activity, have been outside of PL.

Recently, however, I was involved in the Party's convention. Perhaps quantity has changed into quality.

I was not especially moved by any one great speech or speaker. I was also not excited by any specific single moment. I was, however, moved by the entire weekend.

I housed young militants at my house, an integrated group of marvelous young people that touched me. I was impressed by the number and types of faces that I did not recognize. I was affected by the international nature of the event, particularly the picture of Israeli and Palestinian Party members and friends, side by side, and singing the Internationale in Arabic and Hebrew.

Where else but in PLP could this happen?

The convention gave me something I have not had in a long time: a sense of possibilities. It is true, there is a long hard road ahead, but for the first time in a while I feel some potential.

I do not know exactly where this feeling will ultimately lead me, but I do know that I am willing to rejoin a Party club and find out.

A comrade at the convention quoted an old leftist who said that the world has only two choices: barbarism or communism.

I choose communism.

*A "Returning" Red*

## Protest KKKops' Racist Attacks

During the Summer Project, I took part in a sale and rally in the Port Richmond neighborhood of Staten Island, N.Y. As CHALLENGE has reported, this neighborhood was and is like an armed camp. There were squad cars passing every few minutes, a mobile command truck and a raised surveillance tower. The politicians say the KKKops stop the racist attacks on immigrants from continuing. The truth is that the KKKops function to terrorize this working-class neighborhood. As we sold CHALLENGE, many white, black and Latino workers beeped as they drove by in support of a sign that said "HONK if you hate racism!"Some workers also stopped to talk to us.

One of them was a Latino worker who was beaten by the cops. He was defending himself against an attacker when the KKKops came. Instead of helping, the KKKops beat the already-beaten worker severely, arrested him, and then released him without charge. This is racism!

Now, he is unable to lift his left arm and therefore unable to work. It is clear that the cops serve the bosses, not the workers. They only spread fear and attempt to disorganize the workers from uniting and fighting back against the fascist state!

*Project Volunteer*

# 'Workers are all just one big family….' Militancy, Multi-Racial Unity Mark PLP Pre-Convention Events

PLP's Summer Project started off with teachers and students going to a high school in Washington Heights, an area that used to send thousands to May Day marches. CHALLENGE was distributed to students and to workers at the subway stop.




In the evening, we viewed the film "Sir! NO Sir!," about resistance by rank-and-file soldiers in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. A parent and some students came to the movie showing. It was the parent's first introduction to the Party, and she was interested. It is important to have parents, students and teachers united, as PL is trying to build a Party that includes all members of the working class.

Summer Project participants had a CHALLENGE sale at a local community college. Students eagerly took the paper and one was interested in coming to a protest in Harlem on Wednesday. Campus security guards told the PL'ers that they couldn't do their sale as the college was "private property." How a campus that is paid for with public money is off-limits to the public is a contradiction that only makes sense under the logic of capitalism. These students, like those on campuses all over the U.S. and the world, are seeing their tuition skyrocket while their quality of education declines.

The sellers refused to move as one participant talked to the campus KKKops. Eventually they moved to the sidewalk and distributed some more papers. Even though we don't have state power in this period of history, it is important to challenge the state within the limits that we can, whenever we can. When campus security yelled at a female CHALLENGE seller, they all stood their ground and refused to make it easy to drive communists off the campus.

On August 8, the racist thugs in blue — NYPD KKKops — murdered a young Latino man and shot over 20 bullets at another, putting him in intensive care in Harlem Hospital (HH). Comrades working in a church in Harlem wrote up a leaflet condemning the racist murder, as well as racist cuts at HH, and called for a rally there and a meeting at the church later on in the evening.

The small but spirited rally chanted against police brutality. Hundreds of leaflets and CHALLENGES were distributed to angry workers leaving and entering their shifts, as well as passers-by. Comrades working in the church brought out children, youth, and adults from the black working class of Harlem. PL'ers must continue to work in community organizations and churches to build the Party, coordinate actions, and increase the level of militancy within the working class to build for communist revolution.

Manhattan PL'ers participated in a discussion of the important PL document "Build A Base in the Working Class." Comrades from all over the world discussed the difficulty of creating ties with people based on revolutionary communist politics. Their stories underscored the Party's present analysis of our line, "Dark Night Shall Have Its End." Great amounts of work lead to modest results, but this period will lead to greater advances when the tide of history shifts and the working class takes the offensive. Only communist leadership will prevent the working class' offensive against the bosses from becoming mired in reformist struggles and Obama worship.

## Highlights of the Experiences of PLP Summer Project Participants

My experiences during this past week have been a self-revelation. Selling CHALLENGE and actually standing up for a cause has made me feel like I can make a difference in this capitalist society we live in. Everyone I've met is highly intelligent, inspiring and motivated. We see a cause and stand up for it. We don't allow the working class to get walked over or get taken advantage of. I appreciate listening to everyone speak about communism and the different terms I heard, because I'm constantly learning something new. Having this unity and common cause makes me feel like we can rise up and win. I feel appreciative to be here and have the reins handed over to me and pass it on from our generation to our kids.

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My first day here was a nervous one. I haven't participated in anything political in a while. But after hearing from the people who are experienced, I realized why I was really here in NY. I'm here to unite the working class, to fight imperialism, racism and sexism!

The first day selling CHALLENGE was very difficult. I didn't have a chance to read the issue first, so that made it hard to sell. I offered, and some would listen then ignore me. Some would put me down. It did put my morale down. Luckily, I had comrades to help me and lift my spirits. They explained to me what I could say and what's a good way to get donations. Each day

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# More Summer Project Letters

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of selling the paper got easier. I read the paper and supplement, which helped to understand our fight a lot better.

I felt the study groups would be difficult, but after listening to everyone I realized it was more about sharing our thoughts on the paper. We get a better understanding of what we are here for and how to improve our Party.

The experience I enjoyed the most was our rally protesting the Council on Foreign Relations. I hadn't realized the bosses had secret meetings in regular old buildings. As I looked around my comrades, I saw unity. What made me really feel our unity was that even when the cops came, no one moved. Our line marched on, chanting, "Exxon Mobil, BP Shell, take your war and go to hell!"

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My name is Dion and I'm a worker. For the last week, I was in NYC with other fellow workers like myself, working on the Project. When I first was asked to come, I was glad, but I didn't think it would be work. I thought it was going to be all play. It was my first time on a plane and in NYC, so I was hyped up. I met all types of people from all over the globe and everybody was here for one reason: to fight for the working class, to get the public's attention and to show them that the times we are living in are not right at all. We all want to expose these ruling-class assholes for who they really are.

I'm from the block, the hood. We don't really pay close attention to those things at all. We just chill, live our life the way we always do and pray to see tomorrow. I love my experiences in this past week. It has opened my eyes, my mind and given me new questions about life.

The most important thing I learned is that workers are all just one big family that wants to be treated fairly, and if not, we will fight back. Like I said in the beginning, and as it will be in the end: I'm Dion and I am a worker.

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My favorite part of the Summer Project was seeing the many different "races" in NY. There are many different types of food, clothing, languages and music. Seeing all this in one place is inspiring. Staying with other people in the Party made me feel comfortable. I liked being in NY, helping others in the same struggle as me. It's inspiring to meet other people from different parts of the world who come together with me and fight for the same cause. This trip gave me the experience of selling CHALLENGE for the first time, and learning new ways to organize a communist group by attending study groups and movie nights. I also enjoyed sightseeing on the Staten Island Ferry and going to the best museum I've ever been to. I am grateful I was invited to come here and make a difference.

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What I loved the most about the Summer Project was taking naps. Seriously though, this summer, I learned to remind myself not to quit when people intentionally ignored me while trying to sell the paper. I felt welcomed from the NY comrades and being in the Party really feels like being in one big family.

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This Summer Project was fun and filled with new ideas and new people. I have done three Projects before, but none were like this one. I went to the VA hospital with two young comrades and we gave out a few CHALLENGES. I had a nice discussion with a 40-year veteran. He was telling me that we are doing a good thing, but we need to make sure that we are doing what we talk about. Hospital security kicked us out. I never got kicked out of anywhere before, but I was proud that we made a plan to get out safely and we executed it perfectly. I loved the CFR rally. It was full of energy. I really felt like we were an army.

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I sold CHALLENGE. I watched a movie about how back then women couldn't decide or vote to help their family (Salt of the Earth). I went marching with people, protesting for the workers. I think in all the things we did, it was important how everybody stood together; they never gave up. I learned how many people were fighting and how many people agreed and others didn't. I felt great about this Summer Project.

# Jerusalem

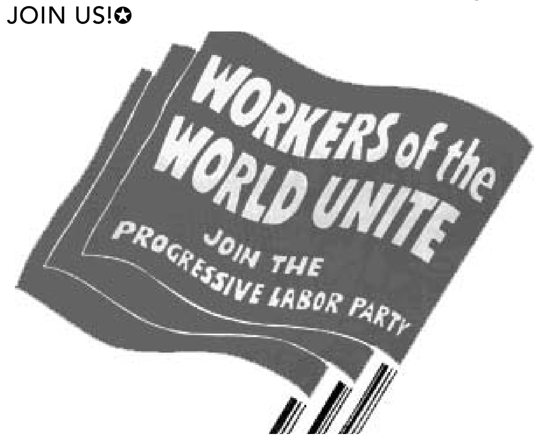
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ers.

It is not surprising that the Israeli regime — the same regime that maintains the fascist blockade over Gaza and slaughters its residents — actively supports these land-grabs. Ever since its foundation in 1948, the Israeli state followed the colonialist policy of "Judaization," that is, as many Jews (especially upper-class) on as much land as possible, and as little Palestinian-Arabs (and Jewish workers) on as little lands as possible. This policy serves the interests of local tycoons and their wealthy U.S. masters, who gain profitable real-estate assets for cheap or for free. It also serves the need of all bosses to separate workers on the basis of racism and nationalism, thus weakening the working class.

Three local PL'ers came to the demonstration, armed with a red PL flag. They distributed leaflets revealing the real-estate business interests behind the house seizures. The PL'ers called for the workers of all nations and "races" to unite against the bosses and the fascist state and smash them once and for all.

PLP fights for the overthrow of the "Zionist" Israeli apartheid regime and its puppets in the Palestinian Authority, who might be getting a few more bribes in the current round of "peace negotiations." We want the workers of the entire Middle East, Arabs and Jews alike, to unite and replace colonialism and capitalism with the communist rule of the working class. JOIN US!




# RED EYE ON THE NEWS

***Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times***

## US troops to stay in oil-rich Iraq

**otherwords.org, 8/23 —** The war in Iraq is over. Or so the government and most media outlets will claim on September 1….

When September 2 dawns, however, 50,000 of our troops will still be in Iraq. The mission of these "non-combat" forces…. sound[s] an awful lot like what American soldiers are supposed to have been doing for much of the last seven years. With the exceptions of the initial invasion and the 2004 assaults on Fallujah, the Iraq War has had few large-scale battles. The Army and Marines have seen plenty of action, but most of it has been in raids on insurgent strongholds, which have frequently been called "partnered and targeted counter-terrorism operations." One difference from past years is that American troops will rarely conduct patrols, but most have already been confined to base for some time….

The close of the "combat mission" is a rebranding rather than a watershed moment….

The essential realities of the Iraq War remain the same: Iraq is oil-rich and strategically located at the head of the Persian Gulf. Its ruling elites are fractious and weak. Our continued troop presence is an insurance policy against… Iraq's takeover by unfriendly elements….

None of the foregoing has anything to do with the reasons Americans were given for invading Iraq in the first place.

## Much more than 50,000 remain

**NY Daily News, 8/22 —** 50,000 other American soldiers and some 95,000 private contractors… will remain in Iraq…

## The new jobs: No living wage

**NYT, 9/1 —** The growth of… low-wage jobs began in the 1980s, accelerated in the 1990s and began to really take off in the 2000s. Losing out in the shuffle… were jobs… described as "middle-skill, middle-wage…." And certain blue-collar jobs, like assembly line workers and machine operators.




The recession appears to have magnified that trend…. From 2007 to 2009… there was relatively little net change in total employment for both high-skill and low-skill occupation, while employment plummeted in so-called middle-skill occupations….

"If this kind of bottom-heavy job creation continues, it could pose a real challenge to… making sure working families have a way to support themselves."

## Child marriage kills many girls

**otherwords.org, 8/13 —** While child marriage has decreased globally, it remains common in rural and low-income areas in parts of Asia, the Middle East and Africa….

For these girls, having sex and bearing children almost always comes before they are physically or emotionally ready. They… are often powerless to abstain from sex or even use contraception.

So children deliver children, often with tragic results. Girls younger than 15 are five times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than women over the age of 20. Pregnancy-related deaths are the leading cause of mortality for girls aged 15 to 19 worldwide.

## BP profits by using prison labor

**otherwords.org, 8/16 —** In its national PR blitz to buff up its image, [BP] has loudly boasted that it has been hiring devastated, out-of-work local people to handle the clean-up….

The Nation magazine now reports…. BP has been using inmates — literally a captive workforce — to do much of the shoveling and scooping to remove oil from Louisiana beaches. What a deal for BP! It gets very cheap workers who're (sic) guaranteed to show up on time, do what they're told, and keep their mouths shut….

BP is getting paid for this labor. By you and me. Under a little-known tax provision passed during the Bush regime, corporations can get a "work opportunity tax credit" of $2,400 for every work release inmate they hire.

**MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG**

# Jerusalem: Workers Rip U.S.-Backed Racist Land-Grab




**JERUSALEM, September 1 —** Dozens of Palestinian-Arab residents of the Silwan neighborhood of east Jerusalem, supported by more than a hundred anti-racist activists, marched against a phony "scientific convention" serving as a cover for a racist land-grab in the neighborhood by upper-class Jewish settlers.

The settlers, backed by the cops and by city hall, use a massive archeological dig in that neighborhood — supposedly revealing the remains of the ancient City of David — to justify their violent takeover of multiple houses in the area while evicting their original, Palestinian-Arab, residents. First they take over a few houses, then harass the local Palestinian-Arab population and make their lives miserable until they have to move away. Then the settlers take over more houses. The same policy is used in Silwan, Shiekh Jarrah and Hebron to seize real-estate assets.

The demonstrators tried to march towards the City of David "archeological park," where the convention was being held. Their way was blocked by armed riot cops, despite the fact that they were marching in one of their own neighborhood's main streets. The cops then proceeded to brutally attack the residents and the activists, injuring three activists and arresting six. But the demonstrators did not back down; for three hours they stood up against the fascist cops and shouted slogans such as "King David died a long time ago — cops and settlers go away!" and "Wake up! Fascism is marching against us!"

This land-grab is not an isolated incident, nor is it a local initiative by a few extremists, as some of the liberal activists believe. The ELAD organization, which is behind the settlers, is funded by several real-estate tycoons, including the Miami mogul Irving Moscowitz and the big Israeli bosses Lev Leviev and Roman Abramov. Irwing Moscowitz funds a number of racist land-grabs all over Palestine, such as in Ras El-Amud and Shiekh Jarrah. Similarly, another U.S. capitalist, Ron Lauder — the heir of Estee Lauder's business empire — is behind the fascist demolition of the entire village of Al-Araqib in southern Palestine. Obviously, such skilled investors did not throw all this money into the fascist settler NGO's out of philanthropy alone: there are business interests involved, and the whole wave of house demolitions and evictions of Palestinian-Arabs from their homes is nothing but a real-estate land-grab by big capital at the expense of local work-

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# Zionists Aided Hitler, Used Reparations to Fund Israeli Bosses

If Henry Louis Gates had actually wanted to raise legitimate questions about problems of reparations, he could have discussed the case of Israel, which has received reparations, as opposed to African Americans, who have not. If he wanted to raise questions about collaboration and complicity with Western perpetrators of slavery and genocide, he could have discussed Jewish collaboration with the Nazis.

However, unswerving support for Israel is itself treated as a form of obligatory reparations and atonement for failure to prevent Nazi genocide against Jews during World War II. Gates himself, like President Obama, is a strong supporter of Israel. He offered extravagant praise for his colleague and Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz's lying plagiarized book "The Case for Israel." What can an examination of reparations for Jews and Israel tell us about reparations?

The global struggle against Nazism/Fascism during World War II demonstrated that hundreds of millions of people were capable of great courage and self-sacrifice to defeat a common enemy. However, in every country where this struggle took place, there were people who collaborated with the Nazis or fascists.

These traitors were often called the "fifth column," a reference to those Spaniards who supported fascist General Franco. In Norway they came to be called Quislings, a reference to a Norwegian fascist who helped the Nazis occupy Norway. Among European Jews, some of the traitors were members of the Judenrat, Jewish councils set up by the Nazis to help them administer the Jewish ghettos, conscript slave labor, and organize genocide. Jews who resisted the Nazis called them Judenverrat, meaning Jewish traitors.

Communists led resistance movements against Nazism/Fascism and understood that it was necessary to deal sharply and swiftly with traitors. Most of the three million European Jews who survived the Nazi genocide lived in the Soviet Union and survived because of communism. Nearly six hundred thousand Soviet Jews fought in the Soviet Red Army against the Nazis.

In contrast, the Zionists (Jewish nationalists), who founded the state of Israel after World War II in 1948, often collaborated with the Nazis and imitated their racist ideology. Zionists opposed efforts to organize international economic boycotts of Nazi Germany. Zionists opposed efforts to rescue Jews by resettling them in various countries, because the Zionists were determined to settle Jewish refugees only in Palestine. Zionists declared that many Jews were not worth saving from the Nazis, and they wanted only "the best biological material" to build a Jewish state.

Hungarian Zionist Rudolph Kastner struck a secret deal with Nazi leader Adolph Eichmann in 1944: Kastner would provide Eichmann with thousands of trucks and would not warn 450,000 Hungarian Jews that the Nazis were about to transport them to the death camps. In return, Eichmann would allow Kastner and few thousand Hungarian Zionist Jews to escape to Switzerland. Kastner later became a cabinet member in the Israeli government and was assassinated in 1957.

It was this Zionist movement of collaborators in the Nazi genocide that founded the state of Israel and drove most of the Palestinian population from Palestine. This Zionist leadership received and controlled the billions of dollars of reparations money obtained from European governments. These Zionists created what Norman Finkelstein calls "The Holocaust Industry" as a profitable racket, while distributing only a small fraction of this money to Jews most in need of assistance.

Israeli capitalists have used reparations money to consolidate and expand their state and their exploitation of Jewish and other workers. The U.S. alone has provided Israel with about $100 billion dollars in military assistance since the 1967 Arab/Israeli war. Zionist Israel has been a strategic asset of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East for more than four decades, helping U.S. rulers control the governments and oil of the region.

The mixture of reparations with nationalism serves the interests of imperialism and is toxic for the working class. ✪